

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 have been canceled. Claim 25 has been amended to more clearly define the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Support for amended Claim 25 can be found at, e.g., page 26, lines 22-24, and page 62, lines 12-25. Claims 26-29 have been amended to be consistent with independent Claim 25. Claim 32 has been added depending on claim 26 and including a Tg lower limit based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 54, line 14 in the specification. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 25-29 and 32 will be pending.

Response to Claim Rejections Under § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 11102542 to Matsuoka et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,942,578 to Noguchi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 have been canceled. Thus, that portion of the rejection pertaining to Claims 1-3 and 5-9 is now moot.

Regarding Claims 25-29, present claims 25-29 relate to a laminate comprising a photo-curable transfer sheet disposed on a reflective layer, the photo-curable transfer sheet comprising a photo-curable composition which comprises a homopolymer or copolymer derived from alkyl acrylates and /or alkyl methacrylates and having a photopolymerizable functional group and weight-average molecular weight of not less than 5,000 and which is capable of deforming by application of pressure, at least one side of the photo-curable transfer sheet having a surface roughness (Ra) of not more than 30nm.

Matsuoka discloses a laminate consisting of a release sheet and a second release sheet which are bonded to each other with an adhesive sheet and used for preparing a disc, and the

Examiner indicates on page 3 of the Office Action that the release sheets undergo release mold processing. However, Matsuoka fails to disclose or suggest a laminate comprising a photo-curable transfer sheet disposed on a reflective layer, the photo-curable transfer sheet comprising a photo-curable composition which is capable of deforming by application of pressure.

Matsuoka further fails to disclose or suggest how to cure the composition.

Noguchi fails to make up for the deficiencies of Matsuoka.

Noguchi discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive composition which includes at least two energy beam curable copolymers having energy beam polymerizable groups in side chains thereof. Further, when UV rays are used to cure the adhesive a substrate film having a transmission of light having a wavelength from 300 nm to 400 nm is at least 15% (9/16-20). However, Noguchi fails to disclose or suggest a laminate comprising a photo-curable transfer sheet disposed on a reflective layer, the photo-curable transfer sheet comprising a photo-curable composition which is capable of deforming by application of pressure.

Thus, even if one skilled in the art were to modify Matsuoka with the composition of Noguchi, the present invention would not be obtained.

In addition, with respect to Noguchi's polymer, Applicants submit that prior to UV curing, though the glass transition temperature, T_g , is unknown, it is lower than T_g after UV curing, which is between -47°C and -15°C . In contrast, in the present invention, prior to UV curing, the polymer is soft and has a T_g such as between -10°C and 10°C , and after curing, T_g is approximately 30°C .

Applicants note that Noguchi's polymer is only used for a release sheet. Thus, Noguchi's polymer should not be sticky after UV curing. In contrast, in the present invention, prior to UV curing, the polymer is soft. While in this condition, the stamper is pressed onto the polymer

sheet. The sheet is then irradiated by UV to cure the polymer while the stamper remains pressed. When the stamper is released the polymer will be in a hard state because, after curing, Tg is approximately 30°C. Thus, the sheet is able to maintain the pressed shape upon releasing the stamper.

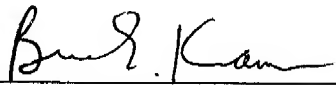
Accordingly, Matsuoka and Noguchi fail to render obvious present claims 25-29. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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